

Message Text

SECRET

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12
ACTION EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3217
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
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S E C R E T TOKYO 16070

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF PRC EMBASSY OFFICIAL IN TOKYO ON PURGE OF
RADICALS

SUMMARY: IN FIRST SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE BETWEEN PRC
AND AMERICAN EMBOFFS IN TOKYO, PRC DCM MI KUO-CHUN
SAID PURGE OF RADICALS REMOVED LAST DOMESTIC OBSTACLE
TO IMPROVEMENT OF US-CHINA RELATIONS, AND DIMINISHED
CHANCE OF CLOSER PRC TIES WITH SOVIET UNION. MI IS
EXPERIENCED, DISCIPLINED SENIOR DIPLOMAT. POLICY
SIGNIFICANCE ASIDE, HIS REMARKS INDICATIVE OF MORE
RELAXED ATTITUDE SHOWN BY CHINESE DIPLOMATS IN TOKYO
SINCE PURGE. END SUMMARY.

1. AT IRANIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION OCT 26 MI
KUO-CHUN, COUNSELOR AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION OF
(PRC) EMBASSY IN TOKYO, TOLD EMBOFF THAT PURGE OF
CHIANG CH'ING, CHANG CH'UN-CHIAO, WANG HUNG-WEN
AND YAO WEN-YUAN ERADICATED LAST OBSTACLE TO IMPROVEMENT
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OF RELATIONS WITH MEMHTES VYGIIRMS OF CHINA'S

OWN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. MI SAID RADICALS HAD ALWAYS FAVORED RESTORATION OF TIES WITH SOVIET UNION AND OPPOSED BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE US, AND, WITH THEM GONE, THERE WERE NO OTHER OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF BETTER CHINA-US RELATIONS.

2. MI STATED THAT CHINA'S POLICY TO PURSUE BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE US HAD BEEN FORMULATED BY MAO TSE-TUNG AND CHOU EN-LAI AND THAT THE PRC, NOW HEADED BY CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG, WOULD NOT DEVIATE FROM THIS POLICY. HE SAID THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP WOULD NOW BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT "CORRECT" FOREIGN POLICY WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM ANY QUARTER.

3. COMMENTING ON PRESS REPORTS OF PEACE OVERTURES MADE BY THE SOVIET UNION AND MONGOLIA TO CHINA MI SAID THAT SOVIETS AND MONGOLIANS WERE COLLUDING TO CREATE CONFUSED PICTURE VIS-A-VIS NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA. MI SAID PURGE OF RADICALS SIGNIFIED END OF PRO-SOVIET INFLUENCE WITHIN CHINA AND DIMINISHED CHANCES OF NORMALIZING AND BETTERING CHINA-SOVIET RELATIONS. (MI DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER HE MEANT PARTY-TO-PARTY OR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS.)

4. MI ADDED THAT PURGE OF RADICALS HAD BEEN CHINA'S PRIMARY INTERNAL PROBLEM SINCE 1971 WHEN LIN PIAO'S AMBITIOUS SCHEME UNCOVERED. LEADERSHIP ALSO DISCOVERED CHIANG CH'ING AND THE OTHER THREE WERE PART OF LIN'S "RING" WHICH CARRIED ON ANTI-PARTY AND ANTI-PEOPLE ACTIVITIES AND ACTED AS SOVIET AGENTS. MI ADDED THAT WHEN THE NEWS OF THE PURGE CAME TO HIS EMBASSY, ALL OF THEM WERE ELATED AND DRANK TOGETHER FOR SEVERAL HOURS TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION.

5. COMMENT: IT IS HARD FOR US TO JUDGE THE AUTHORITY BEHIND MI'S STATEMENT THAT THE PURGE OF THE RADICALS REMOVES THE LAST INTERNAL OBSTACLE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF US-PRC RELATIONS. NEVERTHELESS MI'S REPUTATION IN TOKYO IS THAT OF AN EXPERIENCED AND DISCIPLINED SENIOR DIPLOMAT, AND THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT THAT HE

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KNEW HE WAS TALKING TO AN OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

6. IN PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS AT DIPLOMATIC RECEPTIONS, MI HAS BEEN CIVIL TO EMBASSY OFFICERS BUT UNWILLING TO COMMUNICATE ANYTHING OF SUBSTANCE. PRC EMBASSY TOKYO HAS AVOIDED CONTACT WITH AMERICAN DIPLOMATS GENERALLY. MI'S WILLING TO COMMENT SEEMS SIGN OF

MORE RELAXED APPROACH NOTED ELSEWHERE AMONG CHINESE
DIPLOMATS (TOKYO 16071) SINCE LEADERSHIP
UPHEAVAL IN PEKING. HOW LONG THIS WILL LAST IS HARD
TO SAY, BUT WE WILL REMAIN ALERT FOR FURTHER
DISCREET CHANCES TO TEST PRC ATTITUDES HERE.
HODGSON

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